



March 9, 2023

Mr. David R. George
Heritage Consultants
PO Box 310249
Newington, CT 06131

Subject: Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment Survey
Proposed Solar Facility
56 River Road
Putnam, Connecticut
ENV-23-0569

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the archeological survey report prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated July 2022. The proposed activities are under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council and are subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The proposed action includes the construction of a ground-mounted solar facility, measuring approximately 17.11 acres, and to include a 20 foot wide access road, interconnection pole, stormwater management features, and chain link fence, all to be located at 56 River Road. Surrounding land uses include agricultural fields, a utility transmission corridor, wooded areas, and several freshwater sources including the Quinebaug river to the east, Carpenter's Brook to the west and south, and two smaller feeder streams to the north and south. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

The reconnaissance survey consisted of a contextual overview of the area's prehistory, history, and natural setting, literature to identify previously completed cultural resource surveys and recorded sites, review of historic maps, pedestrian survey of the study area, and preparation of a current archaeological assessment report.

Eleven previously identified archaeological sites are located within one mile of the project area; however, none will be impacted by the project. Three properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located within one mile of the project area; however, none will be impacted by the project. Similarly, six properties listed on the State Register of Historic Places are located within one mile of the project area; however, none will be impacted by the proposed facility.

State Historic Preservation Office

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The Phase IA assessment survey identified that aside from the northwestern portion used as agricultural fields, the project area retains a moderate to high potential to contain intact archaeological deposits. We therefore recommend that a Phase IB professional cultural resources assessment and reconnaissance survey that includes subsurface testing techniques be completed in areas identified as having moderate to high archaeological sensitivity and will be impacted by the proposed solar project prior to construction. All work should be in compliance with our *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* and no construction or other project-related ground disturbance or demolition should be initiated until SHPO has had an opportunity to review and comment upon the requested survey.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project, and looks forward to additional materials. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2357 or marena.wisniewski@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer